



# SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE

5560 Overland Avenue | Suite 400, San Diego | CA 92123-1204

[www.sdcountyfire.org](http://www.sdcountyfire.org)

## SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Monday, September 8, 2025 | 1:00 p.m. | San Diego County Fire Office, Balboa Room

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### AGENDA

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- I. CALL TO ORDER
  - A. Pledge of Allegiance
  - B. Roll Call
  - C. Declaration of Quorum
  - D. Introductions
- II. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: Members of the public may address the Board on any subject matter within its assigned purview and not on the agenda. Please notify County staff prior to the meeting.
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM May 12, 2025 **(VOTE)**
- IV. MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT
  - A. Fire Chief's Update
  - B. Director's Update
- V. NEW BUSINESS
  - A. Mandated Fire Inspection Reporting for Fiscal Year 2024-25—Pending Board of Directors Action
  - B. County Fire's Proposed Helicopter Acquisition and Operational Plan—Pending Board of Supervisors Action
  - C. New Building Lease for County Fire's EMS Bureau—Information
  - D. County of San Diego Efforts to Address Fire Apparatus Antitrust and Monopolistic Practices—Information
- VI. NEXT MEETING
  - A. Monday, November 17, 2025 at 1:00 pm at the San Diego County Fire Office – 5560 Overland Ave, Suite 400, Balboa Room, San Diego CA 92123 (County Operations Center).
- VII. ADJOURNMENT

Written materials distributed to the Fire Advisory Board in connection with this agenda will be made available to the public less than 72 hours before the meeting at the Office of San Diego County Fire.

#### **ASSISTANCE FOR THE DISABLED**

If you are planning on attending this meeting and need special accommodations, please contact County Fire staff at least 24 hours before the meeting. Individuals requiring sign language interpreters should contact the Americans with Disabilities Coordinator at (858) 505-6521, in advance of the meeting.

For meeting information, please contact:

San Diego County Fire

TEL: (619) 455-1819

[Nicole.DelToro@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Nicole.DelToro@sdcounty.ca.gov)



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## SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT FIRE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Monday, May 12, 2025 | 1:00 P.M.

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### MINUTES

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#### Members

Jason Shanley  
VACANT  
Debra Foster  
Randy Lyle  
Ben Tullock  
John Clark  
Jesse Robles  
Bret Sealey  
Clifford Kellog

District 1 – Seat 1 (absent)  
District 2 – Seat 2  
District 2 – Seat 3  
District 2 – Seat 4  
District 2 – Seat 5, Chair  
District 3 – Seat 6  
District 4 – Seat 7  
District 5 – Seat 8  
District 5 – Seat 9 Vice Chair

#### Guest

#### County Staff

Tony Mecham  
Jeff Collins  
Marc Regier  
Ryan Silva  
David Sibbet  
Bob Spanbauer  
Nicole del Toro

CALFIRE/Chief  
County Fire/Director  
County Fire/Assistant Director  
CALFIRE/Deputy Chief Community Risk Reduction  
County Fire/Fire Services Coordinator  
County Fire/Chief Admin Services  
County Fire/EMS Admin Secretary/Recorder



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- I. CALL TO ORDER at 1:00 pm.
  - A. The group recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
  - B. Roll call was taken.
  - C. A quorum was declared present with seven (7) members in attendance, (1) absent.
  - D. Introductions were made. The following new members were introduced: Debra Foster representing District 2, and John Clark representing District 3.

- II. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION  
There was no public communication.

- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF MARCH 3, 2025 (VOTE)

**ON MOTION of Member Sealey, seconded by Member Lyle, the Advisory Board approved the minutes of March 3, 2025 with the correction of the date for the next meeting.**

**AYES: 7      NAYS: 0      ABSENT: 1      ABSTAIN: 0**

- IV. CHIEFS REPORT

- A. Fire Chief's Update – Tony Mecham

- Two additional water tenders have been purchased.
- Sheriff's helicopters need replacing.
- The 2024 Standards of Cover–Executive Summary will be given out in hard copies.
- Additional staffing needed in Pauma Valley, Dulzura and Otay Mesa.
- Interagency started with City of San Marcos and Carlsbad where staffing is shared for Regional Use Task Force.
- Protection responsibilities with US Forest Service and CALFIRE will no longer be exchanged.
- State Budget was revised; increase in CALFIRE budget.
- Descanso Fire Station rebuild got pushed back, causing additional pushbacks on Borrego Fire Station and Ramona Fire Station.

- B. Director's Update – Jeff Collins

- County's CAO released a proposed budget; budget looks good.
- Facilities pending projects: Jacumba Fire Station; San Pasqual Fire Station – 4-bedroom module; Fire Station 80 – kitchen; Borrego Springs Fire Station.
- Two increases were passed from the Board of Supervisors: Fire Mitigation Fee and Fire Marshals Services.

- V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. County Fire's Return to the Board of Supervisors on Wildfire Preparedness and Recovery – Pending Board of Supervisors Action

In January, Los Angeles County experienced several wildfires that resulted in significant damage to the Pacific Palisades and Altadena communities. Thousands of homes were destroyed and nearly 30 lives were lost. On January 28, 2025, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors took several actions to promote wildfire readiness, education, response, and recovery efforts. On June 3, 2025, County staff will return with a presentation on overall wildfire preparedness, which includes



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vegetation management, water supply and infrastructure, residential insurance, and emergency response coordination. Representatives from partner agencies, including the San Diego County Water Authority, California Insurance Commissioner's Office, and San Diego Gas & Electric are expected to join County staff in the presentation.

## An update was received from County Fire staff.

### B. Adoption of the Local Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Maps – Pending Board of Directors Action

In 2011, the State of California enacted AB 211 which required the Office of the State Fire Marshall to reclassify the fire hazard severity for Local Responsibility Areas in California. The legislation then required the local fire agency to adopt the findings, by ordinance, within 120 days of the maps being made public. The Office of the State Fire Marshal published the new Local Responsibility Areas (LRA) Maps on March 24, 2025 for the area which includes San Diego County. The San Diego County Fire Protection District (SDCFPD) has a limited LRA in two areas of the District, one in the middle of Ramona and the other in Borrego Springs. AB 211 prohibited local agencies from reducing any risk severity but authorized the local agency to increase risk severity if certain findings are made. County Fire staff, on behalf of the SDCFPD, have reviewed the LRA maps and is proposing no changes. On June 24, 2025, the SDCFPD Board of Directors will be asked to adopt the map.

#### Summary of Changes:

Change	Ramona (Acres)	Borrego Springs (Acres)
No Designation to Moderate	263	2,199
No Designation to High	286	2
No Designation to Very High	279	0
Very High to No Designation	0	1
Very High to Moderate	87	1
Very High to High	97	0

**ON MOTION of Member Lyle, seconded by Member Kellogg, the Advisory Board voted to support County Fire Staff's recommendation to approve the Local Responsibility Area (LRA) Maps, as required by the Office of the State Fire Marshal, in the San Diego County Fire Protection District.**

**AYES: 7                      NAYS: 0                      ABSENT: 1                      ABSTAIN: 0**

### C. Annual Levies, Special Taxes and Community Facilities Districts – Pending Board of Directors Actions

The County of San Diego Department of Public Works (DPW) and Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) are putting forth the annual special tax board actions. Upon approval, the annual levies will be placed on the tax roll so that the property owners can continue to pay the levy through their property tax bills. County Fire receives special tax revenue from:

- San Diego County Fire Protection District
  - 10 Zones within the FPD



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- County Service Area (CSA)
  - CSA-17 – San Dieguito Emergency Medical Services
- Community Facilities District (CFD)
  - CFD 04-1 (Lake Morena, Jacumba, Jamul, and Lyons Valley Region)
  - CFD 09-1 (Otay Mesa)
  - CFD 14-1 (Borrego Springs)

**ON MOTION of Member Robles, seconded by Member Kellogg, the Advisory Board voted to support the annual special tax board actions.**

**AYES: 7                      NAYS: 0                      ABSENT: 1                      ABSTAIN: 0**

**D. Standards of Cover Update–Information Only**

San Diego County Fire periodically updates its Standards of Cover to ensure the appropriate distribution of fire protection and emergency medical resources and to identify long-term needs. County Fire staff recently completed this project, and the findings will be used to reallocate equipment and place new purchases on the County's Fire-Year Financial Forecast.

**An update was received from County Fire staff.**

**VI. NEXT MEETING**

The next Fire Advisory Board meeting will be held on Monday, September 8, 2025, at 1:00 pm at the San Diego County Fire Office (County Operations Center) – 5560 Overland Ave, Ste 400, Balboa Rm, San Diego 92123.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Advisory Board adjourned at 2:00 pm.

NOTE: These Minutes set forth all action taken by the Advisory Board on the matters stated, but not necessarily in the chronological sequence in which the matters were taken up.

**For meeting information, please contact:**

**San Diego County Fire**

**TEL: (619) 455-1819**

**[Nicole.DelToro@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Nicole.DelToro@sdcounty.ca.gov)**

### Mandated Fire Inspection Reporting for Fiscal Year 2024-25—Pending Board of Directors Action

The State code requires the San Diego Fire Protection District to perform annual inspections on all buildings used as a school, apartment complex, group care facility, residential care facility, commercial space, office complex, jails, law enforcement station, lodging unit, and day care facility. County Fire, on behalf of the San Diego County Fire Protection District, completed 100% of the 286 State-mandated inspections in the San Diego County and Deer Springs Fire Protection Districts in Fiscal Year 2024-25. In addition, staff conducted 1,222 non-mandated business inspections in the same time period.

**Recommendation:** Receive this report and vote in support of the findings.

### County Fire’s Proposed Helicopter Acquisition and Operational Plan—Pending Board of Supervisors Action

In January 2025, the Board of Supervisors directed the Chief Administrative Officer to identify funds to purchase a night-flying helicopter for San Diego County Fire (County Fire) to staff and conduct night-time water drops on wildland fires in our region. CAL FIRE, County Fire’s operational partner for fire protection and emergency medical services, has fully transitioned to the Sikorsky S70 Firehawk and maintains 16 of these in their fleet for aerial firefighting. The Sikorsky S70 Firehawk has been determined by County Fire staff to be the most effective helicopter platform for attacking wildland fires.

CAL FIRE, at the State-level, has determined a need to increase aerial resources in San Diego County for wildland fire protection. The State has proposed that if the County purchases a Sikorsky S70 Firehawk, then CAL FIRE will cover all staffing, fuel, and maintenance costs. San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) recently purchased a Sikorsky S70 Firehawk but no longer has a need for it and has offered to sell it to the County for their actual costs of \$32,275,000. In addition, \$6 million is needed to retrofit the helicopter to meet CAL FIRE’s operational standards.

As part of the Fiscal Year 2025-27 Adopted Operational Plan, \$14 million was included to purchase a night-flying helicopter. In addition, SDG&E would contribute ongoing funding of \$3.3 million to County Fire’s aerial firefighting program, subject to California Public Utilities Commission approval in future years. If the Board approves County Fire’s proposed plan, the new firefighting helicopter would be available by summer 2026.

Lastly, County Fire has an existing agreement with SDG&E to provide aerial resources that County Fire/CAL FIRE can direct to emerging wildland fire threats. The Board of Supervisors is being asked to extend that agreement for additional years.

**Recommendations:** Support County Fire’s recommendations to: 1) Approve a single source contract to purchase SDG&E’s Sikorsky S70 Firehawk helicopter for \$32,275,000; 2) Authorize a single source contract with United Rotorcraft to outfit the Sikorsky S70 Firehawk to meet CAL FIRE’s standards for \$6 million; 3) Authorize County Fire to accept revenue of up to \$5 million annually from the State of California, United States Government, and SDG&E to support the helicopter program; 4) Extend the current agreement with SDG&E for regional aerial resources through July 31, 2032.

#### New Building Lease for County Fire's EMS Bureau—Information

County Fire, in partnership with CAL FIRE, provides around-the-clock fire protection and emergency medical services at 21 fire stations throughout the San Diego County Fire Protection District (SDCFPD). In addition, County Fire and AMR staff 16 frontline ambulances in the SDCFPD's Ground Ambulance Service Area that also includes the Deer Springs, Alpine, Valley Center, and a portion of the San Miguel Fire Protection Districts. In total over 425 paramedics provide advanced life support (ALS) care on behalf of the County. The rapid growth in paramedic-level care has exceeded County Fire's current space for training and equipment storage. The Department of General Services will be going before the Board of Supervisors to request approval for a lease on behalf of County Fire.

**Recommendation:** Receive a report on County Fire's proposed training center.

#### County of San Diego Efforts to Address Fire Apparatus Antitrust and Monopolistic Practices—Information

In April, the Board of Supervisors directed the Chief Administrative Officer and County Counsel to explore legal and advocacy options related to fire apparatus antitrust and monopolistic practices. County Fire, consistent with other fire agencies in California and the nation, have been experiencing significant cost increases and production delays of new vehicles. In August, County staff returned to the Board to provide an update and seek Board direction for next steps.

**Recommendation:** Receive a report on County of San Diego efforts to address fire apparatus antitrust and monopolistic practices.